

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, March 20, 1879, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1509 R. I. Ave., Washington, D. C. Mar. 20th. 1879. My dearest Alec:

I want to hear from you so much, I hunger and thirst for a sight of — your paper “on the quality of vowel sound reproduced by the phonographic cylinder.” I know it is not right, but it is about the meaning of it, is it not? I am distracted crazy to think any one can for a moment say as Mr. Bradley does that you “stumbled” on the telephone. Some one told Papa this evening that Mr. Bradley's next move was to turn you out, to try and persuade the directors that the discovery of the telephone was an accident, and you can do nothing further this is the end of you. I can't sit quietly down and see you pushed out of your own concern — and they will not dare to if you can only bring out something no matter what, so it proves that that was not the end of you. What have you done about your patent for the new carbon telephone, have you spoken of it? Courage, courage my own sweet love, write on, send me the paper, papers that is the only thing you can do now. Remember I am really and truly interested and do want to know all about it. Please just tell me, and please I don't want corrected and recorrected letters, nor a fair copy from a rough-draft, I want a letter written just as the words first came into your mind, I can wait for the polishing by and by. How excited you must be by the contest. If I could only be with you my own sweet love to try and help and cheer you with my love and faith that no matter how dark things may seem the right will triumph. Mamma says for Papa the brighter days seems coming, he returned home with two thousand dollars in the bank and fifty 2 in his pocket — and all his debts except two he can pay — all paid off.

Mamma and I have been busy for you all day trying to persuade ourselves Andrews could paint a good picture of Baby and I, but after a pilgrimage to see his best picture of Martha

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Washington at the White House, and another visit to him in his studio we remained further than ever from being satisfied. Then we went to the Corcoran Art Gallery and saw Ulke's pictures of Henry and Schurtz which we thought most remarkable and powerful, I want him to do you, but Mamma is not sure he would do a lady well, and he refuses to try Elsie.

Now I am tired, so goodnight with ever so much love,

your loving, May. I have invited Cousin Sam here during the meeting of the Nat. Acad.